



Dear Friend,

I've heard from many of you with questions about how to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and I wanted to share some information to help you and your families. I will be sure to send regular updates so that you have access to timely information. And if you'd like a friend or neighbor who also lives in NY-04 to get this information, please have them sign up for my newsletter [here](#).

First, it should be noted that the New York State (NYS) government is primarily responsible for distributing the COVID-19 vaccine to residents. The federal government, through agencies like the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), has provided support to state governments by developing guidelines and recommendations for how states can best administer their vaccine allocations. The federal government has worked to distribute the vaccines to state governments, local community health centers and, in the near future, to retailers as well.

For specific questions or concerns regarding the vaccine rollout in NYS, please call the New York State Department of Health hotline at 1-888-364-3065, or fill out the online form [here](#).

TYPES OF VACCINES

In the U.S., there are currently two vaccines that have been authorized by the CDC to fight against COVID-19: the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine. Both of these vaccines require two shots, spaced 21 and 28 days apart respectively. Both vaccines were approved by the FDA in December, and the approvals were then affirmed by New York's COVID-19 Clinical Advisory Task Force.

Although only two vaccines have been approved in the U.S. thus far, the CDC notes that vaccines from Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, Janssen, and Novavax are being reviewed right now.

You can learn more about each vaccine and vaccine safety on the CDC website [here](#).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

New York is currently in Phases 1A and 1B of vaccine distribution. These phases prioritize those members of the community who are most at risk from infection and/or serious illness from COVID-19. Currently, individuals who belong to the following groups are now eligible to receive the vaccine:

- All individuals 65 and older

- High-risk healthcare workers, EMS workers, urgent care workers, frontline healthcare workers
- Teachers, school faculty, police, firefighters, and public transportation workers

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. For a complete list of eligible groups, please visit the NYS distribution website [here](#).

Starting February 14, adult New Yorkers of any age with certain medical conditions, like cancer, liver disease, COPD, cystic fibrosis, etc., will be eligible for the vaccine at state-run mass vaccination sites. When it comes to non-state run vaccination sites, local health departments will create their own guidance on how and when to schedule appointments for the vaccine.

Furthermore, you may use the NYS eligibility form to check whether you can receive the vaccine as well. Click [here](#) to access the form.

Lastly, due to expanded eligibility criteria and the quantity of shipments from the federal government, the current supply of vaccines is very limited. However, the Biden Administration is working on increasing its vaccine allocations to states and is planning on shipping vaccines to pharmacies directly. This program is set to begin today and will expand to more retailers in the coming weeks.

WHERE CAN YOU GET A VACCINE?

There are different providers that individuals can contact to make an appointment for a vaccine. Below are options for providers.

New York State

- Click [here](#) to see if you are eligible for a vaccine. Once you fill out the online form, you will see a list of New York State-run providers in your region. If appointments are available, the website will indicate that and give you the chance to book an appointment.
- In addition, you can use the New York State hotline to book appointments by phone: 1-833-697-4829
- Once you successfully book an appointment for a vaccine at a state-operated site, be sure to complete the NYS COVID-19 Vaccine Form. A link to that form, as well as all NYS vaccine site information, can be found [here](#).

Northwell Health

- If you are eligible, you can call the Northwell Health vaccine hotline to potentially schedule an appointment: 1-844-919-8222
- Visit the Northwell Health [website](#) for updates and information on appointment availability.

As mentioned previously, starting today, about 6,500 pharmacies nationwide will receive vaccine doses from the federal government to distribute in accordance with state and local government eligibility guidelines.

- **CVS:** CVS is planning on giving about 27 of its stores in New York the ability to provide vaccines. This will be expanded over the coming weeks. Once the vaccines become available, you can use their mobile app, [website](#) or call 1-800-746-7287 to book an appointment.

- **Walgreens:** In order to obtain a vaccine from Walgreens, once they become available, you will need to create an online account. This can be done [here](#).

Nassau County

- The Nassau County website also contains information on vaccine distribution. At the bottom of the page linked [here](#), you can check on appointment availability for a few specific locations.

We expect more vaccines to become available in the coming weeks, so please keep checking in with providers for timely updates.

VACCINE STATISTICS

Shot Distribution Across New York*

First Doses Received	First Doses Administered	Second Doses Received	Second Doses Administered
1,874,975	1,738,927	933,850	602,328

Shot Distribution on Long Island*

Total Doses Received	Total Doses Administered
345,505	301,457

Vaccine Distribution as a Percentage of the New York Population**

Percentage Given One Shot	Percentage Given Two Shots
9.4%	3.2%

Statistics current as of 2/10/2021

* - [COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker](#)

** - [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)

Sincerely,



Kathleen Rice



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